

# **The 1850 Mansfield and Alford Wagon Train to Oregon**

## **May 5, 1850 to December 1, 1850**

**With notes from the lost journal of Moses Mansfield**

**Compiled by Arlene F. Mansfield**

Moses Mansfield's journal of crossing the Oregon Trail in 1850 was lost in 1931 in a house fire at the home of his grandson, Robert Moses Mansfield, at Missouri Flat on the Applegate River in Josephine County, Oregon. Although the journal was lost its history was not. Robert Moses and his wife Grace Nellie (Fryer) Mansfield and their children; Harold Robert and Leola Annette Mansfield, had read Moses Mansfield's journal and were able to recall many of the adventures, hardships, sickness and cholera deaths of the Mansfield and Alford wagon train of 1850.

I was able to locate a second Oregon Trail journal, one compiled by M. Littleton about his journey across the plains from Independence, Missouri to California by way of the Oregon Trail, dated May 11, 1850 to October 11, 1850. His journey began one week after the Mansfield and Alford wagon train. Littleton's journal records the many fresh graves he found during the five months he was following the Mansfield and Alford wagon train to Oregon. Littleton noted in his journal, "I know I have missed the names on many more of the fresh graves I saw along the trail." His original journal is located in the California State Archives in Sacramento.

Moses Mansfield's journal was dated May 5, 1850 from Salisbury Township near Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri. The wagon train included members of the Thomas Alford Sr. and Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and their extended families; Brinker, Cupp, Morris, Scrivener, Rodgers, Williams and other unknown relatives, friends and neighbors from Chariton, Howard, Randolph and surrounding counties in Missouri. The state of Missouri was admitted to the Union in 1821. Chariton County was formed from Howard County in 1820. Randolph County was formed from Chariton County in 1829. The reason for going to the Oregon Territory in the spring of 1850 was for the opportunity to acquire free land from the Oregon Donation Land Act created in the fall of 1850.

The first wagon train from Independence, Missouri to Oregon arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1841. The first great migration by wagon train to Oregon and California occurred in 1843. The Oregon and California wagon train of 1843 traveled together on the Oregon Trail until they reached Ft. Hall, Idaho. Joseph R. Walker worked as a guide for the Chiles Company. The company was located at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming and Ft. Hall guiding wagon trains to California. He led one of the wagon trains to California in 1843. He had already opened the Southwest Trail to Mexico (Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico) in 1833. The trapping brigade he led on November 13, 1833 to California discovered Yosemite Valley.

Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and Joseph R. Walker were well known to each other. They had grown up in the same neighborhood in east Tennessee. Their parents were in Knox County, Tennessee before Tennessee reached Statehood in 1796. Joseph R. Walker led the first group of emigrants from Knox and Roane Counties Tennessee to Howard County, Missouri in the fall of 1819. Among those first emigrants to Missouri in 1819 were Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and his wife Martha Jane (Morris) Mansfield. Nicholas Mansfield Jr. was born in Knox County, Tennessee in 1799. He and his wife were married in Roane County, Tennessee on February 20, 1819. He was the son of Nicholas Mansfield Sr. and Elizabeth Looney. They were married on October 31, 1793 in Knox County. Martha Jane (Morris) Mansfield was born in 1800 in Knox County. She was the daughter of James Robert and Dorcas (Morgan) Morris from Roane County. They were married in Green County, Tennessee on May 9, 1790. The Morris and Morgan families were from the state of Virginia.

In the Spring of 1850 the Mansfield and Alford wagon train selected Dominic Mansfield as their Captain and Moses Mansfield and Thomas Alford Sr. were selected Lieutenants. One of their first incidents on the trail was described by Moses, "While crossing the Platte River the current washed off the wagon bed on one of the wagons." Dominic's wife and baby, only a few days old were in the wagon bed. Dominic swam after the wagon bed and pushed it ashore with both of them soaking wet but otherwise unharmed." Moses also mentioned that some of their cattle and horses were stolen by the Indians. He also records, "Many of them died of cholera."

Several of the mid-west newspapers reported cholera on the Plains. THE GLASGOW BANNER at Steubenville, Ohio dated Tuesday July 9, 1850 printed a letter from Mr. G.S. Frazil, which reported that the cholera had broken out on June 6, 1850, 18 miles beyond Ft. Kearny, which "was making terrible ravages." In the short distance between Ft. Kearny and the place where the letter was dated, the traveler passed many companies encamped to take care of the sick. The letter was brought to St. Joseph by an emigrant whose company of four had died.

THE CITY REGISTER at St. Louis, Missouri, reported in the Steubenville, Ohio paper that cholera at St. Louis was reported during the week ending June 30, 1850. The article reported 196 interments in several cemeteries. Of the 196 interments, 104 of them were children of the age of five years or younger. Of the total deaths during the month there were 68 that had died of cholera.

The first recorded cholera death on the Mansfield and Alford wagon train was that of four year old Thomas Alford. He died on June 10, 1850, crossing the South Platte River. His death was published in the MISSOURI REPUBLICAN on October 7, 1850. He was the son of Thomas Alford Sr. and his second wife Mary (Williams) Mansfield Alford.

On June 13, 1850, Littleton wrote, "I saw two fresh graves located ten to twelve miles North West of the junction of the Big Sandy and the Little Blue River. One grave was marked N. Mansfield age 51, from Chariton County, Missouri and the second grave was of William Fisher age 26."

Martha Jane Mansfield, aka Jane and Jinny, died on June 22, 1850 ten days after her husband Nicholas Mansfield Jr.'s death. Jane's death occurred about twenty miles west of Ft. Kearny, Nebraska. (Ref: Donation Land Claim. No 1567. Vol. III. Linn County, Oregon).

On June 23, 1850, Littleton records the death of "Captain William C. Halley, died age 46 of Chariton County, Missouri." Dominic, John Frances, and James Matthew Mansfield, served with him and Colonel Sterling Price in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Missouri Mounted Volunteers in 1846-1847. They were with

General Stephen Kearney when he and his troops went into Mexico to claim the city of Santa Fe, as part of the U.S on August 24, 1847.

Several members of the Mansfield and Alford wagon train died at Ash Hollow, Nebraska including, Keziah (Cupp) Morris wife of James Morris. On March 27, 1843 Dominic Mansfield was a witness to their marriage in Chariton County, Missouri. Ash Hollow was a well-known water and camping spot on the Oregon Trail. Mrs. Elizabeth (Stipple) (Brinker), Mansfield, wife of John Mansfield died at Ash Hollow on July 1, 1850. John and Elizabeth (Stipple) (Brinker) Mansfield had two children; a son James Nicholas Mansfield and a daughter named Mary Ann Mansfield. Elizabeth had two children by John Brinker; John and Catherine Brinker. By November of 1854 Catherine (Brinker) Mansfield had married Albert L. Alford. Mary Ann Mansfield married William Wallace Benjamin on November 8, 1863 in Linn County, Oregon. John Mansfield died in the spring of 1851 at age 36 in Linn County, Oregon. He was born in 1815 in Tennessee. (John was probably a nephew to Nicholas Mansfield Jr). Nicholas Mansfield Jr. had a brother named John Mansfield born ca. 1796 in Knox County, Tennessee. The brother of Nicholas Mansfield Jr. remained in Roane County, Tennessee until 1833. There was a John Mansfield owning property in Chariton County, Missouri in 1819. His land was located a few sections north of Nicholas Mansfield Jr.'s property in Missouri. John Mansfield was listed on the 1820 Chariton County, Missouri Tax List as being out of state. His land was listed as unoccupied.

William L. Alford was appointed guardian of James Nicholas Mansfield, son of John and Elizabeth (Stipple) Brinker Mansfield in 1851. James Nicholas Mansfield filed for a Donation Land Claim at the Roseburg Land Office No. 1824 for 164.68 Acres S. 31, T. 14, S. R West of the Willamette Meridian in 1851. He married Missouri "Nancy" Davis from Gold Hill, Oregon in Jackson County, on December 28, 1871. He died on March 28, 1924 at Central Point, Oregon. They are buried in the Rock Point Cemetery at Gold Hill. They had three children; William Albert, Homer Richard and Cassie Mansfield. The three children were all born and died in Jackson County, Oregon.

There were eleven children born to Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and Martha Jane (Morris) Mansfield according to the 1840 U. S. Missouri Federal Census and death records in Chariton County, Missouri. Their living children and grandchildren all immigrated on the Oregon Trail to Oregon in 1850.

The following is a list of Nicholas and Martha Jane (Morris) Mansfield's eleven children;

1. Dominic Mansfield, "The Captain of the Wagon Train in 1850," was born on August 6, 1820 in Illinois. (Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and Martha Jane had stopped in Illinois for his birth as they were moving from Roane County, Tennessee to Howard and Chariton County, Missouri). Dominic married his first wife Mary Ann Lennox, in 1840 in Chariton County, Missouri. She died with their infant child on the Oregon Trail. He married his second wife, Cecilia E. Pollard, on March 6, 1853 in Salem, Oregon. They had five children; William, Elmira M., Alice Emily, Anna Elizabeth, and Gertie May. They lived in Albany, Oregon. Dominic served as Sergeant of Company M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Missouri Mounted Volunteers with Captain William C. Halley and Colonel Sterling Price. They were with General Stephen Kearney on August 24, 1847 when he went in to Santa Fe, to claim it as part of the U.S. Territory. Dominic was discharged in Santa Fe, New Mexico in April 1848. Dominic died September 29, 1890 in Portland, Oregon. (Ref: War

of 1847 with Mexico, Missouri military records, Chariton County marriage records, Linn County, Oregon U.S. Federal Census, Lane County marriage, and obituary records).

2. Nicholas Mansfield III was born in 1821 in Chariton County, Missouri. He died in 1843, near Keytesville, Missouri. He married Miss Mary Williams in Chariton County, Missouri in 1841. They had a son named John Nicholas Mansfield born in May 1842 in Chariton County. After the death of Nicholas Mansfield III, his widow, Mary (Williams) Mansfield, married Thomas Alford, Sr. on December 20, 1843 in Chariton County, Missouri. Thomas Alford's first wife Keziah (Cupp) had died in 1842 in Chariton County, Missouri. Mary (Williams) (Mansfield) Alford died at Chimney Rock on the Oregon Trail on August 5, 1850. Her brother John Williams also died at Chimney Rock in July 1850. Her brother Jordon Williams was also on the wagon train. He survived the Oregon Trail. Mary and Nicholas Mansfield III's young son, John Nicholas Mansfield, was cared for by Moses and Matilda (Alford) Mansfield. John Nicholas Mansfield married Hannah Ralls in the home of Moses Mansfield in Jackson County, Oregon on May 9, 1874 at Willow Springs, Oregon. John Nicholas Mansfield died on April 14, 1903 in a mining accident. He is buried on Culp Creek (Hunt Old Pioneer Cemetery) on a hill behind Hunt Farm above Culp Creek in Lane County, Oregon. He and Hannah Mansfield had five children; Mary Catherine, Fannie Estelle, Clarence Lester, Edwin Clyde, and Elizabeth "Bessie" D. Mansfield. (Ref: Chariton County, Missouri, death and marriage records, Jackson County, Oregon census and marriage records, Lane County, Oregon census and obituary records).

3. Rev. John Francis Mansfield was born on August 19, 1822 near Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri. His first wife was Elizabeth Scrivener. They were married on December 1, 1843 in Chariton County. Elizabeth died there about 2 ½ miles from Keytesville in 1844. There are no known children. John married Mary Frances Cooper on February 1, 1852 in Marion County, Oregon. They had four children; Gilbert, Louisa Ellen, Dudley, and Josiah W. Mansfield. Rev. John Frances Mansfield died on October 9, 1902 in Fresno, California. He served as Sergeant with Captain William C. Halley, Colonel Sterling Price and General Stephen Kearny during the War of 1847 in Santa Fe. New Mexico. In 1851 he filed a Oregon Donation Claim at the Roseburg Land Office No. 1838 in the amount of 640 A, Sec. 26 & 35, T 15, South. R 4 West of the Willamette Meridian. (Ref: Oregon Donation Land Claim. Missouri War of 1847 military records. Linn County, Oregon, 1860 census Fresno, California U.S. Federal census, 1870, 1880, 1900 and obituary).

4. James Matthew Mansfield was born on May 22, 1823 near Keytesville, Missouri. He died on September 3, 1898 in Troutdale, Oregon. He married Minerva Alford daughter of Thomas Alford Sr. in Linn County, Oregon in November, 1851. Their marriage was performed by Rev. John Mansfield. He stated on his Donation Land Claim No. 1830, that he arrived in the Oregon Territory on September 27, 1850. He filed for 200 acres on S 25 and 26 T 15, S R 4 West of Willamette Meridian. The claim was settled between November and December 1851 in Linn County. He sold the 200 acres in 1896 after the death of his wife on May 15, 1895. James and his wife leased their DLC 200 acres for over twenty years. They had purchased land with his brother Moses Mansfield in Josephine County, about two miles north of Kerby, Oregon. The land they purchased becomes known as the J & M Ranch. They lived on the ranch until 1893. In 1893 James and Minerva developed health problems and moved to Troutdale to be with their daughter Mary Emily (Mansfield)) Vaughan. They are both buried at Troutdale, Oregon. They had

three children; Mary Emily, Phil Bert and James Mansfield. James Matthew Mansfield served with Captain William C. Halley and Colonel Sterling Price in the War of 1847 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. (Ref: 1847 Missouri military records, Josephine County, Oregon U.S. Federal census 1870, 1880, 1890, land records, cemetery and obituary records).

5. Moses Mansfield was born on March 5, 1825 in Chariton County Missouri. He died on August 31, 1890 in Grants Pass, Oregon. He married Matilde Alford the daughter of Thomas Alford Sr. in Keytesville, Missouri on September 1, 1847. When he arrived in Oregon Moses filed for a Donation Land Claim No. 2548 for 640 Acres in Section 35, Twp. 15, R 4 West, in Linn County, Oregon. The claim was settled on December 1, 1851. He also filed a Donation Land Claim No. 2580 in Linn County. They lived in Linn County for nearly ten years before selling and moving to Josephine County, Oregon. H. Robert Mansfield his great-grandson son said, "Moses first rented a place on Louse Creek north of Grants Pass, Oregon." On March 8, 1864 Moses and Matilda purchased a farm at Willow Spring, in Jackson County, Oregon. Sometime prior to 1870 they also purchased the John R. Reeves Donation Land Claim in Josephine County, with his brother James M. Mansfield. The land became known as the J & M Ranch. The ranch land was located at the base of Eight Dollar Mountain. Moses Mansfield filed and received a mining claim at the mouth of Reeves Creek. Reeves Creek flows into the Illinois River near the ranch and Eight Dollar Mountain. The mountain west of the mining claim was named Mansfield Mountain. Later Moses and his wife purchased a house in Talent, in Jackson County, Oregon. His wife Matilde died in Talent in 1886. He sold the Talent property on July 25, 1889. In 1889 he purchased a house and a lot in Grants Pass, Oregon. (Ref: Chariton County, Missouri marriage record. Jackson and Josephine County, Oregon census, land, probate records Vol. M. January 3, 1893 at Oregon State Archives, and Moses Mansfield obituary). They had five children;

1. James Madison Mansfield was born on October 4, 1848 in Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri. He married Georgia Ann Swinden at Rock Point, near Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon on September 29, 1872. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Swinden both from England. He died on July 23, 1915 in Grants Pass, Oregon. They are buried at the Granite Hill Cemetery in Grants Pass. They had twelve children; James Frederick, William A., Elizabeth Ellen, John Edward (known as Doc), Mary Delia, Laura E., Ida May, Pearl Catherine, Rhoda A., George Andrew Jackson, Emma M., and Addie M., Mansfield. Their children were all born in Jackson or Josephine County, Oregon and where raised in the Applegate Valley.

2. William "Riley" Mansfield was born on March 16, 1852 near Harrisburg, Linn County, Oregon. He married Mary Ann Ferguson at Willow Springs in Jackson County, Oregon on April 12, 1876. He was injured in a plowing accident on Graves Creek in Josephine County, Oregon. He died at age 39 of his injuries on September 10, 1891 in Grants Pass, Oregon. Riley was with the Elijah Davidson hunting party in the fall of 1874 when they discovered the Oregon Caves in Josephine County, Oregon. His widow Mary Ann married a second time to John Brantner. John was a Civil War veteran and owned a gold placer mine on the Applegate River near Missouri Flat. John died on September 29, 1905 in Jackson County, Oregon. Mary Ann (Ferguson) Mansfield Brantner married a third time to John William Abbott on April 17, 1910 in Jackson County. He died on May 22, 1916 in Jackson County. Mary Ann (Ferguson) Mansfield Brantner Abbott (known as Grandma Abbott) died on July 9, 1948 in Grants Pass at the home

of her son Robert Moses Mansfield. She is buried beside her first husband William Riley Mansfield in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery in Phoenix, Jackson County Oregon. (Ref: William Riley Mansfield Family Bible). They had three children;

1. Robert Moses Mansfield was born April 16, 1879 at Willow Spring, in Jackson County, Oregon. Robert Moses married Grace Nellie Fryer on June 5, 1905 in the United Methodist Church in Grants Pass, Oregon. He died on October 31, 1948 in Grants Pass. He was cremated and his ashes were spread in the Rogue River. His wife Grace Nellie died on May 26, 1978 in the Magnolia Nursing Home in Grants Pass. She was cremated and her ashes were placed under her father's headstone in the Granite Cemetery in Grants Pass. They had two children; Harold Robert Mansfield of Grants Pass and Leola Annette (Mansfield) Davis of Enterprise, Oregon.

2. Thomas Harlan Mansfield was born on November 17, 1880 in Josephine County, Oregon. He married Anna Benedict on December 15, 1892 in Grants Pass, Oregon. She was the daughter of Riel Benedict and his second wife Louisa (Knight), widow of J.L. Knight. Thomas and Anna lived directly across from the Applegate School for many years in Josephine County. They moved to Arizona in the 1930's. They had one daughter Velma Mansfield born in Josephine County, Oregon. Velma married Paul Anderson in Los Angeles, California. Thomas, known as "Harley" Mansfield, died on July 6, 1938 in a car accident in Mojave County, Arizona. His widow Anna and daughter Velma moved to Long Beach in Los Angeles County, California.

3. Grace E. Mansfield was born on August 7, 1892 in Josephine County Oregon. She died four months and seven days later in Grants Pass. She is buried beside her father in the Phoenix Cemetery in Phoenix, Jackson County, Oregon.

No. 3 continues on the following page with Moses and Matilde (Alford) Mansfield five children;

3. Robert A. Mansfield was born on February 25, 1854 near Harrisburg, Oregon. He died on July 7, 1856 in Linn County, Oregon. He is buried in the Alford Cemetery north of Harrisburg, Oregon.

4. Laura Frances Mansfield was born on December 23, 1855 near Harrisburg in Linn County, Oregon. She married David Smith Cook on March 5, 1876 in Jackson County, Oregon. He was the son of John H. Cook. He was born 1808 in Tennessee. His wife Nancy was born in 1810 in Tennessee. David S. Smith owned and operated a blacksmith shop in Grants Pass. Laura F. (Mansfield) Cook died on June 24, 1948 in a nursing home in Grants Pass, Oregon. Laura and David are buried at Granite Hill Cemetery in Grants Pass. Laura's obituary mentions that when she was a child her family lived on a homestead near Kerby, Oregon. They had seven children; Matilda Alice, Harriet, Dorothy, Etta, Fred Smith, Francis F. and Harry Cook.

5. Gilbert B. Mansfield was born on July 7, 1865 in Willow Springs in Jackson County, Oregon. He married Anna Elizabeth Williams on July 3, 1888 in Josephine County, Oregon. He owned a blacksmith shop in Jacksonville, Oregon. Later he moved to Crescent City, California where he owned and operated a blacksmith shop for many years. He died in 1944 in Crescent City, California. They had four children; Crystal Mildred, Ernest F., Charles Roland and Winnie Violet Mansfield. Winnie married Henry Shade of

Selma in Josephine County where he and his brother owned the Solider Gold Mine near Shade Creek on the Illinois River. Winnie and Henry Shade had no children. They both died in Grants Pass. Roland C. married Leah D. Holcomb. They had two daughters; Phyllis Gail and Shirley Mae Mansfield. The daughters married and remained in Crescent City, California.

No. 6 continues with the eleven children of Nicholas Jr. and Martha Jane Mansfield's children;

6. Mary Ann Mansfield was born on August 7, 1827 in Chariton County, Missouri. She married William L. Alford on March 10, 1847 in Chariton County, Missouri. She died September 13, 1911 in Harrisburg in Linn County, Oregon. They are buried at the Alford Cemetery located near Harrisburg. They had six children; John R., Mrs. W. L. Wright, Albert, Islam, Margaret J. Pierce of Waterville, Washington and Frances Armspring of Sawpit, Colorado. William L. Alford and Mary Ann Mansfield, were appointed guardian of James Nicholas Mansfield, son of John and Elizabeth (Stipple) (Brinker) Mansfield in 1851. They were also appointed guardian of Mary Ann's brother Howard Mansfield in 1851. (Ref: Donation Land Claim No. 1567, Vol. III, and No.1824 Vol. III. Linn County, Oregon).

7. Son, name unknown, was born, ca.1829-1830. He died in April 1840 in Chariton County, Missouri. (Ref: Chariton County, Missouri record).

8. Martha Jane Mansfield was born on May 9, 1831 in Chariton County, Missouri. She married James Berry Rodgers on October 10, 1850 at The Dalles Oregon. The marriage was performed by her brother Rev. John F. Mansfield. Martha Jane Rodgers died June 12, 1914 at Beagle in Sam's Valley, Jackson County, Oregon. They are both buried at the Antioch Cemetery in Jacksonville, Oregon. They had thirteen children; William Jasper, Mary Elizabeth, Amanda Ellen, Ann Laura, Jesse Cornelius, Alice Jane, Minnie Bell, James Franklin, John Melvin, Howard Edward, Emma Frances, Lillie May, and Charles Oscar Rodgers. (Ref: Oregon Donation Land Claims. Linn County U.S. Federal Census, Rodgers Family Bible marriage records, Jackson County, U.S. Federal census, obituary and death certificate).

9. Son, name unknown, was born ca. 1833 in Chariton County, Missouri. He may have died on Oregon Trail.

10. Sarah Jane Mansfield was born on March 28, 1835 in Salisbury Township near Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri. She married Thomas Jefferson Yarbrough on February 27, 1851 in Linn County, Oregon. He died on June 20, 1874 in Jackson County, Oregon in Sam's Valley. They had eleven children. She later married Robert Moore in 1881 in Kerby, Oregon. She was his third wife. (Robert Moore first married Malinda Scrivener; secondly he married Lucinda Alford daughter of Stephen L. Alford.) Robert Moore and his brother Seth were from Chariton County, Missouri. Sarah Jane (Mansfield) Yarbrough Moore died on February 22, 1909 at Smith River, California. The eleven Yarbrough children were; Mary Jane, John B., David William, Howard W., Silas J., Emily M., George Washington, Susan A., Thomas Jefferson, James Franklin, and Lewis Jones Yarbrough. (Ref: Yarbrough Family Bible Records, obituary, Del Notre County, California death certificate. Donation Land Claim No. 1531 Vol. III).

11. Howard Mansfield was born on March 14, 1839 near Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri. He died on June 15, 1871 in Albany, Linn County, Oregon. He was an orphaned at age 11 when his parents,

Nicholas Mansfield Jr. and wife Martha Jane (Morris) Mansfield died on the Oregon Trail. William L. Alford who was married to Howard's older sister, Mary Ann Mansfield, was appointed Howard's guardian. Howard filed for a donation land claim with the Roseburg Land Office No. 1567 in the amount of 165.19 Acres in Section 31, T 14, S. R 4, and West of the Willamette Meridian in Linn County. Howard married Margaret Adeline Hill on the June 29, 1866. They had one son, Claude Howard Mansfield, who was born on November 24, 1868 in Albany. Claude married Harriet Eliza Ross and they had three children; Cynthia Estella, Alfred Lorenzo and Naomi Claudine Mansfield. Howard is buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Albany. (Ref: Oregon Donation Claim No. 1567, Vol. III, Linn County, Oregon marriage records and cemetery records).

When the wagon-train arrived at The Dalles, Oregon on the Columbia River in October, the women and children and Thomas Alford Sr. were floated down the Columbia in a little flat-boat and led by Indians while the men and older boys of the Alford and Mansfield wagon train took the stock over the Cascade Mountains by trail. Matilda (Alford) Mansfield's little sister was five years old and was very sick, and could not go to shore at the rapids where the Cascade Locks are now, so the Indians had the grandfather Thomas Alford Sr. lean over the child in the bottom of the boat with him holding on to the inside of the boat. One Indian, while handling an oar, placed a pole out of the boat to keep the boat off of the rocks. They shot the dangerous rapids. Lost in the spray of water they soon were hundreds of yards downstream. It was pouring rain. They were a sodden group. They were taken to an Indian lodge on a hillside, which had a blazing fire in the center, and presented to the chief. The Indian chief motioned the other Indians back and had the white folks come close to the fire, then smoked a long pipe and handed it to Thomas Alford Sr. The Indians were kind and took care of the immigrants until they were able to continue their journey to Oregon City to find a place to stay for the winter.

Moses wrote, "I was alone when I arrived on the Columbia River at The Dalles on December 1, 1850. No one was floating the Columbia because of the weather. I had to take the trail over the Cascades." (That trail was later developed into a wagon road known as the Old Military or Barlow Road over the Cascade Mountains). He wrote, "My horse was pushing snow to its chest and in places the snow drifts were much higher. I had stayed behind the wagon train to care for the sick and dying and to bury the dead while the wagon train continued on the trail."

Moses met his family and the rest of the wagon train at the Willamette River Falls, near Oregon City where they had rented a cabin for the winter. Moses wrote, "They dared not use the powder and lead for hunting as we feared an Indian attack and we could not use the grain we brought with us because we needed it for spring planting. So the entire party existed on salmon which they caught at the Willamette River Falls."

The Alford and Mansfield families filed their Donation Land Claims applications at the Roseburg Land Office. It was reported by H. Robert Mansfield, Moses's great grandson that Moses Mansfield first took up a Donation Land Claim at the present site of Oregon City. He said, "Moses later traded the land for a yoke of oxen and relocated near Harrisburg, Oregon." Moses filed a second DLC near Harrisburg, Oregon on September 1, 1851. The claim was settled on December 1, 1851. (Ref: DLC No. 2580, Vol. II.). The dates given on the Mansfield and Alford Donation Land Claim applications vary as to the day their



wagon train arrived in Oregon. The earliest dates given were September 27, 1850 and October 27, 1850, except for Moses Mansfield whose arrival date was on December 1, 1850.

Thomas Alford Sr. and his sons located about four miles northeast of Harrisburg, Oregon. Thomas Alford Sr. 's Donation Land Claim was located on Twp. 14, South Range 1 West, and Section 35. His land later included part of the town of Liverpool, Oregon. He had nineteen children between his three wives. One of the children died in Claiborne County, Tennessee, one child died in Chariton County, Missouri, one died on the Oregon Trail and three children died in Linn County, Oregon. He and his third wife (Miss Emeline Galey) were married in the summer of 1855 in Linn County. They had six children. Thomas Alford Sr. and his wife and many of his children from his two previous marriages and their descendants rest in the Alford Cemetery near Harrisburg, Oregon. (Ref: Thomas Alford Sr. Family History).

Matilda (Alford) Mansfield died on December 22, 1886 in Talent, Oregon. In a manuscript Moses describes the death of his wife as the saddest day of his life. He wrote, "I consider in the loss of my wife I lost all." He said, "From that day on I was a sad and lonely man." After the death of his wife Moses purchased a home near the railroad complex in Grants Pass, to be near his daughter Laura F. Cook and her family.

Moses Mansfield died on August 31, 1890 in Grants Pass, Oregon. At his request he was buried beside his wife Matilda (Alford) Mansfield in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery in Phoenix Jackson County, Oregon. When Moses died he still owned his half of the J & M Ranch with his brother James M. Mansfield. The J and M ranch property was sold by the Moses Mansfield's estate and his brother James M. Mansfield in 1895. In July 1990 Moses Mansfield's great-great grandson Charles Robert Mansfield and members of the Mansfield family placed a headstone in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery in Jackson County, Oregon to honor Moses Mansfield as an Oregon Pioneer.